(b) and (c) In order to facilitate overall growth of food processing industries and thereby reduce the wastage of vegetables and fruits, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes, have provided financial assistance of Rs. 9921.87 lakhs during the last three years for setting up, expansion and modernization of food processing industries including cold storages, strengthening of backward linkages, infrastructure facilities etc. Besides, other agencies like National Horticulture Board, Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority, National Cooperative Development Corporation also provide assistance under their respective schemes.

The food processing industries are both in organized and unorganized sectors. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries implements Fruit Products Order, ,(FPO) 1955 under which licences are issued for manufacture of processed products of fruits and vegetables. As on 31.12.2001, 5569 licences have been granted under FPO 1955.

Under the capital investment subsidy scheme of National Horticulture Board, as on 31.03.2002, 509 cold storages with total capacity of 23.59 lakhs metric tonnes (approximately) have been assisted.

Suicide by children

†4724. SHRI JANESWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmen's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Dainik Jagaran of 8th February, 2002 captioned, "Aatmahatya Kartey Naunihaal";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that as a result of mental burden of education on children, risk of mental disease likely to be caused on them is increasing; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government are going to adopt any concrete policy in order to decrease incresaing burden of education on children and to provide equal quality education for children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA: (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. There are several reasons of committing suicide by children like, pressure of examination, failure in examination, social problems, family problems, psychological pressure etc. Govt. of India took several steps to minimize such cases.

The NCERT has addressed the issue of curriculum load in the National Curriculum Framework and suggested measures to reduce it on the learners and minimize the stress and the fear of examination.

The CBSE has taken a series of steps such as appearance of genuine candidates for examinations, objective evaluation of papers, verification of marks on request and 'help line' for disturbed students.

The National Advisory Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal made a number of recommendations regarding the reduction of the academic burden on school children. The State Governments expressed their broad agreement with the recommendations of the Yash Pal Committee. The Government has impressed upon the State Governments/UTs from time to time for expeditious implementation of the recommendations.

Academic collaboration with Sanskrit Bharti

4725. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a section of university teaching community has taken exception to the decision of a UGC 'Expert Committee' to